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IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-5, 7-9 and 11-17 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system ~~for~~ operating a plurality of terminal equipments, comprising:

means for measuring operating time of each of a plurality of terminal equipments;

means for determining rotation candidates, among said plurality of terminal equipments, based on <u>respective,</u> accumulated operating times of ~~said units~~<u>the plurality of terminal equipments</u> with a view to equalizing the <u>respective,</u> accumulated operating times of said ~~respective~~<u>plurality of</u> terminal equipments and sending terminal equipments rotation messages to said rotation candidates;

means for backup processing data stored in said rotation candidate terminal equipments in accordance with said messages; and

means for downloading said data associated with one of said rotation candidate terminal equipments on another of said rotation candidate terminal equipments after the rotation between said one of said rotation candidate terminal equipments and said another of said rotation candidate terminal equipments ~~one~~has been completed.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system ~~for~~ operating a plurality of terminal equipments as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said operating time measuring means measures the operating time of each of said <u>plurality of</u> terminal equipments which have replied to operating time confirming messages sent thereto by said operating time measuring means and holds accumulated operating time for each of said <u>plurality of</u> terminal equipments.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for operating a plurality of terminal equipments as set forth in Claim 1, ~~wherein having~~<u>further comprising</u>:

means for displaying said rotation messages on said respective rotation candidate terminal equipments; and

means for performing a backup process by transferring in accordance with said displayed message said data stored in said one of said rotation candidate terminal equipments from said one of said rotation candidate terminal equipments to another location.

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4.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An administrative unit for managing a plurality of terminal equipments, comprising:

a memory having backup areas where stored data stored in said respective terminal equipments can be stored separately for each of said plurality of terminal equipments;

operating time measuring means for measuring respective accumulated operating times for said plurality ofrespective terminal equipments; and

control means for determining rotation candidates among said plurality of terminal equipments with a view to equalizing respective accumulated operating times of said plurality of respective terminal equipments, directing said rotation candidate terminal equipments to perform a backup process of said stored data and further directing said respective plurality of terminal equipments to resume the operation thereof after the rotation of said rotation candidate terminal equipments has been completed.

5.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An administrative unit as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said operating time measuring means confirms the receipt of replies to messages sent to said respective terminal equipments and then starts to measure the respective operating times of said respective plurality of terminal equipments.

6.   (ORIGINAL) An administrative unit as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said control means sends terminal equipments rotation messages to said rotation candidate terminal equipments when said rotation candidate terminal equipments are determined and directs said rotation candidate terminal equipments to display said messages.

7.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An administrative unit for managing a plurality of terminal equipments, comprising:

means for measuring operating time of each of said plurality of terminal equipments; and

means for determining rotation candidates among said plurality of terminal equipments based on respective accumulated operating times of said plurality of terminal equipments with a view to equalizing the respective accumulated operating times of said plurality ofrespective terminal equipments and notifying said rotation candidate terminal equipments to that effect.

8.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A terminal equipment adapted to be connected to an administrative unit, comprising:

a memory for-storing whole data relevant to operating environments associated with said terminal equipment;

a display means for-displaying a terminal processing rotation message from said administrative unit;

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an input ~~means~~ unit for operating said terminal equipment in accordance with a direction of said displayed message ~~so displayed~~; and

a controller ~~means for~~ executing a backup process of said data stored in said memory on said administrative unit by performing a rotation operation in accordance with a direction of said message.

9.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A terminal equipment as set forth in Claim 8, wherein after having executed said backup process of said data stored in said memory on said administrative unit, said control means downloads whole data relevant to operating environments associated with another apparatus associated with another terminal equipment ~~which is backed up in said administrative unit on said memory~~.

10.   (ORIGINAL) A terminal equipment as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said control means sends a reply message indicating that said terminal equipment is in operation when said control means receives an operation confirming message.

11.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A terminal equipment control method, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

during a predetermined operation period for a plurality of terminal equipments, determining rotation candidate terminal equipments among said plurality of terminal equipments based on respective accumulated operating times of said plurality of ~~respective~~ terminal equipments with a view to equalizing the respective accumulated operating times of said plurality of ~~respective~~ terminal equipments;

performing a backup process of data associated with said rotation candidate terminal equipments; and

performing a download process of said data associated with one of said rotation candidate terminal equipments on another of said rotation candidate terminal equipments after the rotation between said one of said rotation candidate terminal equipments and said another of said rotation candidate terminal equipments has been completed.

12.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A terminal equipment control method, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

when receiving replies from a plurality of terminal equipments to operation confirming messages sent thereto, measuring operating time of each of said terminal equipments from which said replies have been received and holding respective accumulated operating times of said plurality of ~~respective~~ terminal equipments;

determining rotation candidate terminal equipments among said plurality of terminal

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equipments based on the accumulated operating times with a view to equalizing the respective accumulated operating times of said plurality ofrespective terminal equipments;

sending terminal equipments rotation messages to said rotation candidate terminal equipments;

backup processing stored data of said rotation candidate terminal equipments in accordance with said messages;

downloading said data associated with one of said rotation candidate terminal equipments on another of said rotation candidate terminal equipments after the rotation between said one of said rotation candidate terminal equipments and said another of said rotation candidate terminal equipments has been completed; and

resuming the operation of said respective terminal equipments after the rotation among all said rotation candidate terminal equipments has been completed.

13.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A terminal equipment control method as set forth in Claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

when terminal equipments rotation messages are sent to said rotation candidate terminal equipments, displaying said rotation messages on said rotation candidate terminal equipments; and

performing in accordance with said displayed message a backup process by transferring said stored data of said rotation candidate terminal equipments from said rotation candidate terminal equipments to another location.

14.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable recording medium having recorded therein a program for rendering a computer operable for managing a plurality of terminal equipments, executeby:

measuring operating time of each of said plurality of terminal equipments;

determining rotation candidate terminal equipments among said plurality of terminal equipments based on respective accumulated operating times of said plurality of terminal equipments with a view to equalizing the respective accumulated times of said respective plurality of terminal equipments; and

notifying said rotation candidate terminal equipments to that effect.

15.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable recording medium as set forth in Claim 14, having recorded therein further a program for rendering said computer operative to execute:

storing data transferred from said rotation candidate terminal equipments in response to said notice; and

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transferring said stored data to said rotation candidate terminal equipments accordingly.

16.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable recording medium having recorded therein a program for rendering a computer connected to an administrative unit to execute:

receiving a <u>computer</u> rotation message from said administrative unit; and

performing a backup process of <u>whole</u> data <u>relevant to operating environments</u> stored in said computer onto said administrative unit through rotating operation in accordance with a direction of said message.

17.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable recording medium as set forth in Claim 16, having recorded therein further a program for rendering said computer <u>operable</u> to execute:

downloading ~~another~~ <u>whole</u> data <u>relevant to operating environments</u> ~~stored in said computer from said administrative unit for storage.~~<u>associated with another computer from said administrative unit for storage after having performed said backup process.</u>

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